

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**DRAWING AMENDMENTS**

The attached two sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 1 and Fig. 4. These two sheets, which include Fig. 1 and Fig. 4, replace the original two sheets which include Fig. 1 and Fig. 4.

Attachment: Two replacement sheets

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REMARKS

A. Request for Reconsideration

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remain of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the amendments to the drawings, the amendment to the specification, the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

B. The Invention

The present invention is directed to an image recording method and an image recording apparatus that fixes an image on a recording medium by irradiating UV rays. In one of the novel aspects of the invention, the type of recording medium is inputted and the jet condition for forming an image is selected depending on the type of recording medium that was inputted.

C. Claim Status and Amendments

Claims 1-13 are presented for further prosecution.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the method of the present invention. Claim 1 recites a step of inputting a type of recording medium to be used for forming the image, and a step

of selecting a jet condition depending on the type of recording medium that was inputted. Support for this amendment can be found in lines 10-18 on page 48 of the application.

Claims 6 and 8 have been amended to provide antecedent basis in reply to the Examiner's claim objections.

Claim 9 has been amended as a result of the amendment to claim 1.

Claim 13 has been amended in reply to the Examiner's claim objection.

New matter has not been added by way of these amendments.

D. Drawing Amendments

Figure 1 has been amended to identify jetting surface 21 which is described in line 8 on page 14 of the application. In addition, Fig. 4 has been amended to identify recording apparatus 1A and recording heads 2A described in lines 24-25 on page 49 of the application.

E. Specification Amendments

Paragraph 1 of page 7 of the application has been amended to recite that the ink has a surface tension "larger" than that of the water-based ink. Support for this amendment can be found in lines 24-25 on page 7 of the application.

Paragraph 2 on page 7 of the application has been amended to correct minor typographical errors.

F. Claim objections

Claims 6, 8, and 13 had been objected to for lacking antecedent basis. As discussed above, Applicants have amended claim 6, 8, and 13 to provide antecedent basis.

G. The Office Action

Claims 5, 6, and 8 had been allowed.

Claims 1, 2, 7, and 10-12 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Ito (U.S. 6,033,137) in view of Togano (JP 59-209148). Claims 3 and 4 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Ito in view of Togano and Borrell (U.S. 6,585,340). Claims 9 and 13 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Ito in view of Togano and Hayashi (U.S. 6,234,601).

With regard to independent claims 1 and 10, the Examiner cited col. 12, lines 49-54 of Ito to teach selecting a jet condition depending on the type of the recording medium to be used. Togano had been cited to teach ejecting UV curable ink and curing the ink with a UV ray.

1. Ito does not teach or suggest the steps of inputting a type of recording medium and selecting a jet condition depending on the type of recording medium that was inputted

Applicants have amended method claim 1 to clarify that the present invention includes a step of inputting a type of recording medium to be used for forming the image, and a step of selecting a jet condition depending on the type of recording medium that was inputted. Furthermore, apparatus claim 10 recites an input section for inputting a type of recording medium, and a control section which selects a jet condition corresponding to the type of recording medium. Thus, information is inputted corresponding to the type of recording medium, and thereafter the inputted information is used to optimize the jet conditions depending on the type of recording medium that was inputted.

Ito does not teach or suggest the inputting step of claim 1 or the input section of claim 10. Instead, col. 12, lines 42-54 of Ito cited by the Examiner teach that gamma conversion tables and correction coefficients are "preliminarily provided" (e.g. gamma conversion tables and correction coefficients are inputted) corresponding to the printing medium. Thus, Ito does not input a type of recording medium as recited in claims 1 and 10, rather, Ito inputs gamma conversion tables and correction coefficients.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Ito does not teach or suggest the inputting step of claim 1 or the input section of claim 10.

Moreover, since Ito does not teach or suggest inputting the type of recording medium as discussed above, Ito also does not teach or suggest selecting a jet condition based on the type of recording medium that was inputted. Thus, Ito does not teach or suggest the selecting step of claim 1 or the control section of claim 10.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentable over the teachings of Ito and Togano.

2. Togano, Borrell and Hayashi

Togano had been cited to teach ejecting UV curable ink and curing the ink with a UV ray. Borrell had been cited to teach reducing the amount of ink deposited on a glossy medium. Hayashi had been cited to teach identifying the type of recording medium using a gloss sensor.

Togano, Borrell and Hayashi do not teach or suggest the inputting step of claim 1, the input section of claim 10, the selecting step of claim 1 or the control section of claim 10. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the present invention is patentable over the teachings of the cited references taken alone or in combination.

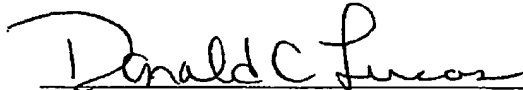
H. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing and the enclosed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl: 2 replacement drawing sheets